Cement companies taken over by Lafarge

2568. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cement companies Lafarge has taken over in India;

(b) the total installed capacity of cement of Lafarge in India;

(c) whether Government will allow Lafarge to take over more large cement companies in India and allow them to hold the monopoly status; and

(d) in what manner Government plan to stop this and allow other players to be in the cement business so that consumer in India is not hurt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Two cement companies (viz. M/s. TISCO and M/s. Raymond Ltd. (Cement Division) have been taken over by Lafarge in India. The total installed capacity of these plants is 3.97 million tonnes (3.5 percent of the total capacity of large plants).

(c) and (d) In the liberalised scenario, the mergers and acquisitions of companies are dictated by market mechanism. Government sets broad policy guidelines. Acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company is permitted only if supported by a Board Resolution of the company and in accordance with relevant guidelines of SEBI/RBI.

Export of Indian System of Medicines

2569. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the value of homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani etc; medicines exported abroad during the last three years, till date, country-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for promotion of Indian System of Medicines for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Total value of Indian export of